

Extend Tabernacle

One Tenth Of Funds Raised

Dec 1964

By JAN PADFIELD
Deseret News Staff Writer

HEBER CITY — Hopes were high here Tuesday that a midnight deadline to raise \$60,000 to save the old Heber Tabernacle would be extended.

Dr. Everett Cooley, director of the Utah State Historical Society, said only about a tenth of the needed funds to purchase another site for the Wasatch Stake Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had been raised.

The Tuesday midnight deadline was set at a recent meeting of the Wasatch Stake presidency and the recently organized "Save the Old Tabernacle" committee.

The stake had planned to tear down the old tabernacle to make way for a needed new building for the growing population. When the State Historical Society made a bid to save the structure, the stake agreed to trade the old tabernacle for another site. Two weeks were given to raise the \$60,000.

Purchase price of an alternate site for the new building, a combined Wasatch Stake Center and meeting place for Heber Second and Fifth Wards, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is \$60,000, according to J. Harold Call, Wasatch Stake president. The proposed new site is located one block north and one block west of the old building.

SOME THREATS

Demolition threats have hung over the 77-year-old landmark since last June when it was announced the building would be razed and a new building constructed at that location.

A petition to save the pioneer relic was signed by more than 1,400 adult residents, and a committee named to find ways to secure the building and find a use for it. This crusade was backed by the State Historical Society, directed by Dr. Everett L. Cooley. A letter was mailed last week to all members of the Historical Society requesting support of the fund drive.

SENDS LETTER

The letter said, in part: "Since early in July, the Utah State Historical Society has been working with individuals, civic and governmental agencies, and citizens groups in Heber Valley to find some way of saving the lovely old rock Stakehouse in Heber



Picturesque spire of old Wasatch Stake Tabernacle reminds Heber City residents of ancestry.

City the old Stakehouse and the property on which it stands."

Mrs. Ruth Witt, a member of the finance committee said: "With limited time we are not able to organize any fund raising campaigns. People in our small community have to plan and budget to pay for these things," she said.

Mrs. Witt told of an elderly widow who makes quilts to support herself. "She gave us \$15 and said she would like to pay more when she sold another quilt."

"A woman from Charleston has advertised her ancestral home, newly remodeled, for sale with half the purchase price to be donated to the Tabernacle fund," Mrs. Witt added.

RED SANDSTONE

Built of red sandstone quarried by hand in nearby mountains and costing \$30,000, the tabernacle was dedicated May 5, 1889. It was reported to be "as spacious and complete as any in the Church, with 1,300 attending the Sunday afternoon dedication service." It was estimated 200 additional could have been seated. (At that time 392 families were living in Wasatch Stake. Total population was 2,296).

The original building contained a wide balcony on three sides and four pulpits. The stand had three elevations: a top row occupied by the stake presidency

and general authorities; the middle row by high council members, and the lower row by ward bishops.

There were four "pot bellied stoves," one in each corner, tended by "Uncle Jessie" Bond, janitor for 30 years. He kept busy hustling from stove to stove, poking dying ashes and refueling. Seating arrangements in winter were as follows: Men seated on the south, women on the north, ladies with babies allowed to sit around the stoves.

Mr. Bond, one of the first six men to settle in Heber City, kept the building clean and polished.

"Every three months we cleaned it until it was shining, and that included scrubbing the wooden floors with homemade soap, turning every other wooden bench over so we could scrub all of the floor" said Mrs. Lacy Duke, a daughter of "Uncle Jessie."

JULY 4 SNOW

Slight and grey-haired Mrs. Duke chuckled as she recalled: "I was 16 years old, and so proud to be chosen as "Goddess of Liberty" for the big annual July 4th celebration. I was in a flimsy white costume and almost froze to death. It snowed all day, but my father didn't light the fires ... not on July 4th!"

Mrs. Ruby Gott and Miss Della Murdock spoke of their grandfather, Joseph S. Murdock, ordained by Brigham Young to be

Tabernacle— It'll Be Razed

Des News 17 Dec 1964

HEBER CITY—Efforts to save the state's Wasatch Stake Tabernacle ended Thursday with the announcement that the building will be razed to make room for a newer, larger and modern edifice. The state's stake center under the direction of the Church Building Committee.

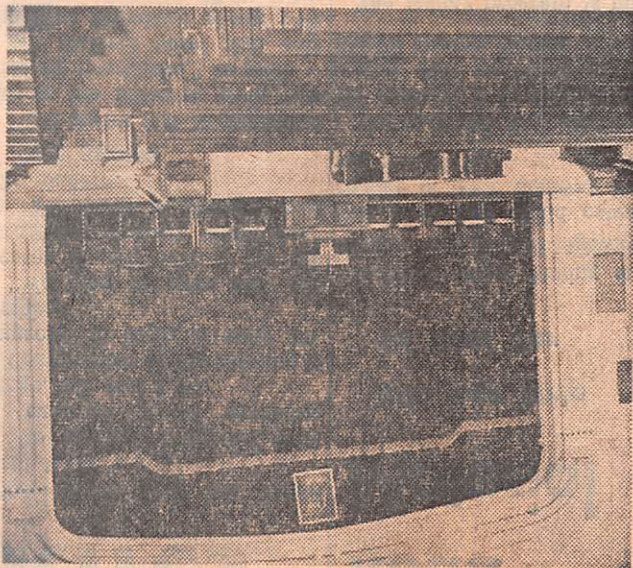
ENDS MOVE

The letter apparently ended a move by residents to save the landmark. The attempt to save the old structure had the backing of the Utah State Historical Society. Dr. Everett Cooley, director of the group, said Thursday, "I am surprised and disappointed. We thought things were being delayed until we could resolve the problem of finding an alternate site." The 77-year-old sandstone building, along with historic Social Hall, was built on the original "town square." Both were scheduled for razing in August. As the date approached, community sentiment mounted. A citizen's committee was organized and secured 1,400 signatures from the county to "save" the building.

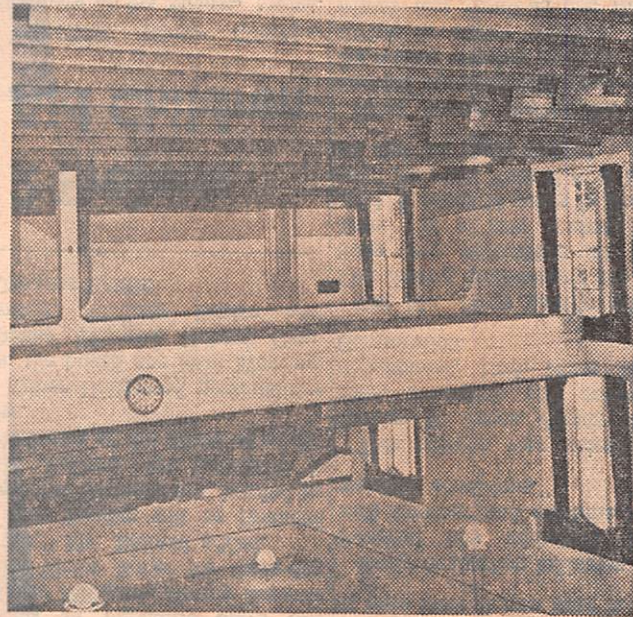
SEEK SITE

"This extension was granted for the purpose of allowing the committee to see if they could provide a suitable site for the erection of the new stake center and make provision to the repair and perpetual maintenance of the present tabernacle." "Since the extension of time has now expired, it seems the committee from Heber City has been unable to meet the above re-

Deadline?



Chairs, rostrum are placed on stage of tabernacle when conference, other meetings are held.



Beautiful hardwood benches dominate main hall and balcony. Structure has stood for 77 years.

The first bishop of Heber Ward, 1861. "One of my earliest recollections is of grandmother's name Murdock taking me to conference in that grand old building. She gave me a peppermint and a look that said plainly, 'Ruby, we'll have no noise from you,' " Mrs. Gott said. Miss Murdock recalled vividly that the term "church mouse" was more than just an expression!" she laughed.

Clear skies becoming partly cloudy Thursday. Temperatures much colder. Low 10 below to 10 above. High Friday 15-35 south.

5A—Mostly fair skies and much colder Thursday night and Friday. Low Thursday night 10 below. High Friday 20-30.

4C—Clear to partly cloudy skies Thursday. Colder temperatures Thursday become Friday. Low Thursday night 5-20 below 8-22.

4C—Mostly clear becoming partly cloudy Thursday night and Friday. Temperatures remain Thursday night 5 below to 5 above. High 18-28.

—Mostly fair Thursday night and Friday. Low Thursday night 20-30 below zero 20 below south.

—At 8:30 a.m., 69 per cent. Precipitation, 1964, 1.14. Departure since Dec. 1, 1964, 3.01. Departure since Oct. 1, 1964, 3.01.

STATIONS			Duluth		
Max.	Min.	Prec.	GRAND JUNCTION	LAS VEGAS	LOGAN
51	28		20	25	.01
20	25		28	1	
32	25		7	38	
46	12		46	12	
35	24		46	14	
46	14		44	4	.02
44	4				PROVO

Rise Friday, 7:47 a.m. Sunset Friday, 5:02 p.m.